

MPL Director's Report – June 26, 2024

Community Engagement

Slaven participated in spectrUM's strategic planning process and attended their Advisory Board meeting to learn more about the results. spectrUM will have a new mission, vision, and values pending a few suggested edits.

Slaven has been working on a new merchandise for The Store project based on original work created by Indigenous artists, Aspen Decker and Stella Nall, for MPL.

The Inclusive Internship program, funded by the Foundation, interns have begun their summer positions. Interns will develop a meaningful program for MPL, adding their unique and cultural perspective to MPL's collections, spaces, and services to our community. Interns will gain valuable first hand learning in program planning and implementation that encourages understanding of community needs.

AUOR Executive Leadership continues to meet with REC to establish a Logic Model within the Partnership. This process is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that spectrUM was awarded. Logic Model Purpose: To visually represent relationships between the five All Under One Roof (AUOR) partners' collective resources, activities, and outcomes.

Slaven met with the directors from spectrUM and Families First to review their leases and pro-rata formulas. This required help from A&E to update square footage maps to show accurate shared spaces and partner spaces.

Slaven and Karl met with TechOps for bookmobile planning.

Highlighted summer programs at the Library Foundation Board meeting.

Regular meeting with the County Commissioners. Shared updates about the DNA climber, bookmobile funding and planning, and the Summer Learning Program. They were excited to learn about the Hush Hour silent reading parties. Two commissioners attended the first one and had a great time.

Attended a Missoula Reads meeting with representatives from MCPS, UM, and the United Way. The group received grant funding for a countywide literacy project for all ages and reached out to MPL to participate in planning.

Led a building tour for the Foundation for Montana History board members during their annual meeting, which at MPL.

Participated in a Missoula Food Bank and Community Center focus group for their Equity Audit.

Meet with a Lunar New Year organizer to discuss plans for next year.

The City team responsible for the National Institute of Health (NIH) grant filed for a No Cost Extension of the DNA Climber. Slaven meets with them regularly to talk about the sub-award and status updates about the legal aspects of the project.

Attended County/City Community JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) planning meeting.

Core Services

The Labor Management Committee met to review staff feedback about the Workplace Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey (based on the Surgeon General Framework). The LMC continues to discuss solutions to the Essentials: *Protection from Harm, Connection and Community, Work-Life Harmony, Mattering at Work, and Opportunity for Growth*.

The Steering Committee and Circulation Department have reviewed a webinar called “Cardholder Signup Policies: Access in Practice” to learn key findings and takeaways from national research on cardholder signup policies from public libraries across the country. Staff are discussing strategies to improve access to library cards for MPL patrons.

The Management Team planned June 28 Staff Development Day, which includes lunch from Kamoon and Biga Pizza sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Regular one-on-one meetings with direct reports.

Teen area discussions with MPL staff, spectrUM, and Families First are ongoing. There are plans to create a more inviting space while tying it in to partner services and exhibits. More teen programming is in the works, including Summer Learning Programs already scheduled.

Slaven worked 13 hours of desk time in the last month so other staff could be at outreach events, programs, and to cover vacation requests. This also includes regularly scheduled monthly Saturday hours.

Library negotiations with the Bargaining Unit set to begin on June 26.

Developed a training plan for our new On-call Library Specialist, who will work in the Reference Department.

Met with the Fire Marshall in the building to propose some changes to doors.

Spoke with Jarrett from DAC about numerous door issues so that he can help with project managing and communicating with TC Glass. Issues include Passport door replacement, two closures needed for Main St. vestibule, Nanawall (Makerspace) door.

Sustainability and Wellness

A group of staff participated in the Missoula Pride 5k and marched in the Pride Parade with AUOR partners.

Slaven was invited to join a County “Progress through Purchasing” committee to look at ways to make purchases that are environmentally sound, economically sustainable, and socially equitable.

Interesting Reads

Not Your Childhood Library – The New Yorker. May 23, 2024

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/us-journal/not-your-childhood-library>

Why Libraries Need to Stop Saying “More Than Books”

<https://raforall.blogspot.com/2024/06/why-libraries-need-to-stop-saying-more.html>